

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below, regardless of whether amended or not.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a selection and distribution unit that is included within a base station controller, the selection and distribution unit being operable to:

(a) receive signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations about a plurality of data streams that are associated with a plurality of mobile stations which are capable of moving within a wireless network;

(b) select one of the plurality of data streams associated with a selected one of the mobile stations to be forwarded to a next destination, the selected data stream being chosen based on at least a power level and a signal quality of the selected data stream; and

(c) direct reverse communication traffic associated with the selected mobile station to a selected one or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the selection and distribution unit determines which base transceiver station is to accommodate an associated communication session based on a selected one of at least a signal strength associated with the selected mobile station, a signal quality associated with the mobile station, and a predicted position associated with the selected mobile station.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data streams are associated with the communication session from the selected mobile station, and the selection and distribution unit is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 2, wherein the data streams are associated with a plurality of call sessions from the mobile stations, and the selection and distribution unit is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded for each call session.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data stream comprises packets using an internet protocol.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, further configured to provide a multicast address to the next destination for transmitting a data stream.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 7, further configured to instruct a selected one of the base transceiver stations to receive the data stream at the multicast address.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 8, wherein the data stream comprises packets using an internet protocol.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, further configured to establish a multicast address for issuing commands to the plurality of base transceiver stations.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for processing packets, comprising the steps of:
receiving signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations about a plurality of data streams that are associated with a plurality of mobile stations which are capable of moving within a wireless network;

selecting one of the plurality of data streams associated with a selected one of the mobile stations to be forwarded to a next destination, the selected data stream being chosen based on at least a power level and a signal quality of the selected data stream; and

directing reverse communication traffic associated with the selected mobile station to a selected one or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein a selection and distribution unit determines which base transceiver station is to accommodate an associated communication session based on ~~a selected one of~~ at least a signal strength associated with the selected mobile station, a signal quality associated with the mobile station, and a predicted position associated with the selected mobile station.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for processing packets, comprising a computer usable medium having machine readable code embodied therein for performing the steps of:

receiving signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations about a plurality of data streams that are associated with a plurality of mobile stations which are capable of moving within a wireless network;

selecting one of the plurality of data streams associated with a selected one of the mobile stations to be forwarded to a next destination, **the selected data stream being chosen based on at least a power level and a signal quality of the selected data stream**; and

directing reverse communication traffic associated with the selected mobile station to a selected one or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein a selection and distribution unit determines which base transceiver station is to accommodate an associated communication session based on ~~a selected one of~~ **at least** a signal strength associated with the selected mobile station, **a signal quality associated with the mobile station**, and a predicted position associated with the selected mobile station.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for a packet processing system, comprising:

means for receiving signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations about a plurality of data streams that are associated with a plurality of mobile stations which are capable of moving within a wireless network;

means for selecting one of the plurality of data streams associated with a selected one of the mobile stations to be forwarded to a next destination, **the selected data stream being chosen based on at least a power level and a signal quality of the selected data stream**; and

means for directing reverse communication traffic associated with the selected mobile station to a selected one or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein a selection and distribution unit determines which base transceiver station is to accommodate an associated communication session based on ~~a selected one of~~ **at least** a signal strength associated with the selected mobile station, **a signal quality associated with the mobile station**, and a predicted position associated with the selected mobile station.

14. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 13, wherein the data streams are associated with the communication session from the selected mobile station, and the means for selecting is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded.

15. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 14, wherein the data streams are associated with a plurality of call sessions from the mobile station, and the means for selecting is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded for each call session.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 13, wherein the data stream comprises packets using an internet protocol.

19. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 13, further comprising means for providing a multicast address to the next destination for transmitting a data stream.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 19, further comprising means for instructing a selected one of the base transceiver stations to receive the data stream at the multicast address.

21. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 20, wherein the data stream comprises packets using an internet protocol.

22. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 13, further comprising means for establishing a multicast address for issuing commands to the plurality of base transceiver stations.